

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 9/22/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A. In response to Applicant's arguments that Honda et al., (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0003411) does not disclose the current claimed language of Claim 1, the Examiner respectfully disagrees.

While the claims are read in light of the specification, limitations from the specification cannot be read into the claims. The Examiner is required to give the claim its broadest reasonable interpretation. Specifically, line 17 of Claim 1 recites and further defines the “1st reference plane” by indicating the 1st reference plane lying orthogonal to a bulb longitudinal direction and including an end of the discharge space positioned at a section, having a greatest curvature, of an inner surface of the light emitting part at a base portion of the electrode nearer the first sealing part.

Since applicant essentially fails to further define whether the 1st reference plane is positioned either *directly* or *indirectly* at a section, having the greatest curvature, of an inner surface of the light emitting part at a base portion of the electrode nearer the first sealing part, the current claim language therefore allows the Examiner's designation of the 1st reference plane (as described in the Office Action filed 6/23/10) of Honda's lamp to be rendered proper.

For the reasons stated above, the rejection of the claims is deemed proper.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hana S. Featherly whose telephone number is (571)-272-8654. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 9 am - 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minh-Toan Ton can be reached on (571) 272-2303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hana Sanei Featherly
Hana Sanei Featherly
Art Unit 2889 Patent Examiner

/Toan Ton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2889